

(c) The percentage of NPAs in the agricultural sector in respect of Public and Private Sector commercial banks is as under:

Particulars	(Rs. in Crore)		
	As on 31 March of	2004	2005
Total Agriculture NPAs of Commercial Banks (Public & Private)	7,699	7,719	6,718
Total Agriculture Advances outstanding in Commercial Banks as on last Friday of March of the respective year	99,165	131,553	191,085
Percentage of Agriculture NPAs to Total Agriculture Lendings(%)	7.76	5.86	3.51

Access to banking

2960. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 51 per cent of farmers and 78 per cent of rural non-community had no access to banking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have asked the Public Sector Banks and banks in the private sector to open their branches in rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per 59th Round of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey (2003) on indebtedness of farmer households, of the 14.79 crore rural households, 8.94 crore were farmer households. Of the farmer households, 4.3 crore (48.6%) were indebted households and 51.4% farmer households had no access to credit from formal as well as informal sources. Of the indebted farmer households 2.47 crore (27.6%) were covered by institutional sources Government, Cooperative Societies, Banks. Accordingly, 6.47 crore (72.4%) of the farmer households had no access to credit from formal sources. As regards 78% of rural non-community having no access to banking, the information in this regard is not available with NABARD.

(c) and (d) Banking facilities are being expanded in rural areas for wider financial inclusion. In this regard, Banks have been advised to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and other Civil Services Organisations as intermediaries in Facilitator and Correspondent models. As per RBI, there were 259 lakh agricultural accounts in public and private sector banks as at the last reporting Friday of March, 2006.

Multi Commodity Exchanges

†2961. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. had become inevitable in the interest of common man of the country;
- (b) whether there is no hike in the prices of foodgrains because of this exchange;
- (c) the extent of hike recorded in the prices of foodgrains and food items from the year 2003 to 2006 as a result of this exchange;
- (d) the income to the Central Government from this exchange;
- (e) whether Government are considering to close down such exchange, as it is not helping the common man; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. provides a trading platform for futures trading in commodities. The Exchange, by providing the trading platform, helps in price discovery and price risk management by various stakeholders such as farmers, producers, exporters, and agro-processors.

- (b) and (c) The prices of the commodities are determined *inter alia* by the demand and supply scenario of the commodity. The Exchange does not have any role in the price movement of a commodity.
- (d) The Government earns revenue in the form of various taxes paid by this Exchange such as income tax, service tax, fringe benefit tax etc.
- (e) and (f) Presently, there is no such proposal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.